

Amendments to the Claims

1-27. (cancelled)

28. (new) An apparatus comprising:

A machine readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform a method comprising:

receiving an indication of a contractual obligation between a first party and a second party, in which the contractual obligation obligates the first party to make a payment to the second party, and in which the contractual obligation obligates the second party to make a performance at the direction of the first party;

receiving information about a futures contract based on the contractual obligation, in which the futures contract obligates a holder of the futures contract to make the payment to the second party in place of the first party, and in which the futures contract entitles the holder of the futures contract to direct the performance of the second party;

receive a request for information about secondary trading of the futures contract; in response to receiving the request, providing at least one term relevant to secondary trading of the futures contract;

receiving an indication of a desire to purchase the futures contract from a trader; and

in response to receiving the indication of the desire, executing a trade fulfilling the desire, removing a prior entity from being the holder of the futures contract, and making the trader the holder of the futures contract.

29. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which the futures contract is part of a futures contract fund and the trade includes a trade for the futures contract fund.

30. (new) The apparatus of claim 29, in which the fund includes a plurality of futures contracts having at least one similar characteristic relating to a contractual obligation on which each of the respective plurality of futures contracts is based.

31. (new) The apparatus of claim 30, in which the characteristic includes at least one of a characteristic about a respective performance which a respective party to each contractual obligation is obligated to perform and a characteristic about a respective party to each contractual obligation.

32. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which the at least one term includes a trading status.

33. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which the at least one term includes an offer.

34. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which the at least one term includes data related to the contractual obligation.

35. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which the method further comprising providing analysis tools related to the futures contract.

36. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which the method further comprises providing a listing of a plurality of futures contracts, in which the plurality of futures contracts includes the futures contract, and in which the request includes a selection of the futures contract from the listing.

37. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which the method further comprises:
receiving information about a plurality of second future contracts based on respective second contractual obligations; and
standardizing the at least one term with respect to each of the second plurality of futures contracts and the futures contract.

38. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, in which receiving the request includes receiving a request for information about futures contracts with the standardized at least one term.

39. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which the performance includes at least one of a sport performance and an artistic performance.

40. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which the futures contract obligates a holder of the futures contract to make the payment to the second party at a date specified by the contractual obligation.

41. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which the futures entitles the holder of the futures contract to direct the performance of the first party if the holder holds the futures contract at a date specified by the contractual obligation.

42. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which executing the trade includes matching of a buy offer and a sell offer.

43. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which the method further comprises:
receiving information about a plurality of second future contracts based on
respective second contractual obligations; and
categorizing each of the second plurality of futures contracts and the futures
contract.

44. (new) The apparatus of claim 43, in which receiving the request includes receiving a request for information about a category of futures contracts that includes the futures contract.

45. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, in which the futures contract allows the holder of the futures contract at a designated date to sell the performance of the second party.

46. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising the processor.